MR. SPEAKER :—" The question is—

' That, with reference to rule 138 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules, this Assembly do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the Speaker, to elect fourteen members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the financial year 1954–55.' "

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER :—" In accordance with the regulations framed by me for the holding of elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 3 p.m. on Saturday, the 27th March 1954, as the time within which nomination papers of candidates for election to the Committee on Public Accounts should reach the Secretary. Nomination forms can be had on application to the Secretary.

" The nomination papers will be taken up for scrutiny at 4 p.m. at Saturday, the 27th March 1954. I also fix 3 p.m. on Tuesday, the 30th March 1954, as the last hour and date for the withdrawal of candidature.

" If the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of seats to be filled, namely, fourteen, a poll will be taken on Saturday, the 3rd April 1954 between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m."

III.—PRESENTATION OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE SECOND SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR 1953–54.

* THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I present the Supplementary Statement of Demands for Grants for further expenditure for the second six months of the current financial year 1953–54 and Detailed Estimates thereof.

" Copies of the Statement of Demands and the Estimates have been laid on the table of the House.

" The original Budget Estimates for the second six months of 1953–54 were presented to the legislature in December 1953. The estimates were framed largely with the data and materials obtained from Estimating Officers prior to the partition of the State and so they were only approximate. A revised estimate for the period was accordingly prepared and intimated to the Legislature on the 26th February 1954, along with the Budget Estimates for the next year. Supplementary appropriation will have to be obtained to cover the excess expenditure provided for in the Revised Estimates, taking also the other factors that have been brought to light, after the preparation of the Revised Estimates.

" As explained in the Introductory Memorandum, the present Supplementary Estimates relate to—

(*a*) Schemes of expenditure already provided for in the Budget Estimates for the second six months of 1953–54 for which additional provision is now required with reference to the expenditure already incurred or expected to be incurred before the end of the year; and

23rd March 1954] [Sri C. Subramaniam]

(*b*) ' New Service ' Schemes sanctioned by the Government in the course of the second six months of the year.

" In the latter class of cases, the demand proposed is for the actual additional appropriation required to meet the expenditure in the current year on individual schemes, after taking into account the savings anticipated in the concerned Grants. Where sufficient savings are expected, the demand proposed is for a token sum of Rs. 100.

" The estimated expenditure in the second six months of 1953–54 in respect of ' New Service ' schemes included in the present statement is Rs. 9·10 lakhs in the Revenue Account and Rs. 0·82 lakh in the Capital Account. This expenditure is covered by advances sanctioned from the Madras Contingency Fund, pending regularization by the Legislature. But most of the appropriations proposed are in respect of larger expenditure on items provided for in the Budget Estimates for the second six months of 1953–54 and approved by the Legislature, due to various causes, as explained in the Detailed Estimates.

" There are in all 28 Demands pertaining to the Revenue Account, including one wholly ' Charged ' item for Rs. 100, involving a total sum of Rs. 346·99 lakhs under ' Voted ', and Rs. 1·67 lakhs under ' Charged '. Under Capital Account, there are four Demands involving a total sum of Rs. 3·77 lakhs under ' Voted ' and Rs. 0·01 lakh under ' Charged '. The total of all the Supplementary Demands including ' Charged ' items works out to about Rs. 3½ crores. As explained in the Introductory Memorandum the total of the present Demands does not represent a corresponding increase in the total budget appropriation for the second six months of 1953–54. Against the additional Demands now included, savings are anticipated to the extent of Rs. 3¼ crores in the Revenue Account and about a crore in the Capital Account. The amount of the Supplementary Demands has not been reduced with reference to these savings, as no reappropriation is permissible, from one grant to another or between ' Charged ' and ' Voted ' items.

" The Supplementary Demands for about Rs. 3½ crores in the Revenue Account include two large items involving a total sum of Rs. 1¼ crores which do not involve outright expenditure but are mere adjustments in accounts, namely, Rs. 75 lakhs transferred from the Consolidated Fund of the State to the Contingency Fund according to the Madras Contingency Fund Act, 1954, recently passed by the Legislature, and Rs. 48 lakhs being contributions from revenue to be credited to the Depreciation Reserve Funds and the Special Reserve Funds of the Electricity Systems. The important items included in the balance of Rs. 2¼ crores are—

(1) Rupees 25 lakhs under ' Harijan Uplift ', due mainly to the increased allotment for scholarships and schooling charges for Harijans and Backward Classes;

(2) Rupees 57 lakhs under ' Education ', chiefly for teaching and other grants to non-Government Primary Schools; and

[Sri C. Subramaniam] [23rd March 1954

(3) Rupees 30 lakhs under 'Medical', due chiefly to the increased expenditure on diet, medicines, etc., supplied in Government hospitals.

"Under 'Capital Account', supplementary appropriations are required for the construction of buildings for Polytechnics, maintenance of Cinchona Plantations and installation of a silk twisting plant in the Government Silk Filatures. Supplementary Grants for token sums are also proposed for four Irrigation schemes and three Electricity extension schemes.

"Further particulars are given in the Detailed Supplementary Estimates.

"With these words, I commend the Supplementary Estimates for the acceptance of the House."

MR. SPEAKER :—"General discussion on the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure will be held on the afternoon of the 27th instant."

IV.—VOTING ON DEMADS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1954–55—*cont.*

(1) DEMAND XXIII—LABOUR INCLUDING FACTORIES—*cont.*

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—"Sir, before the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour begins to reply to the debate, I want to submit one thing. Yesterday, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, while speaking on this Demand, made a number of charges against the Government. He mentioned one specific instance of a strike in the Namanasamudram Textile Mill in Pudukkottai. The nature of the charges is very grave. I disbelieve what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has said. So, I want the Hon. Minister to give a detailed reply in regard to that point."

MR. SPEAKER :—"He will reply not only to this point, but other points as well. The hon. Member is anxious to hear about this point, but there are other hon. Members who are equally anxious to hear about some other points."

11-10 a.m. * THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—"Mr. Speaker, in the first instance, let me thank you and the hon. Members of this House for the generous manner in which you and they have conceded my request, yesterday. I must also take this opportunity for thanking the various hon. Members who have made suggestions, criticisms and observations. I shall try to reply to as many of them as possible. If I don't reply to some of them, it means that I have not got the proper and necessary information with me at the present moment, and if the hon. Members who had referred to those matters put supplementary questions on them, I shall try to waive notice and answer those points.

"Sir, I intended to answer the hon. Leader of the Opposition last. Since he is now leaving Madras by plane, I shall try to answer his points first.